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Message Text

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41
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SY-10 OPR-02 AID-20 PC-15 IO-13 OC-06 CCO-00

RSR-01 M-03 A-01 EB-11 /174 W
---------- 128424
O R 191250Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4263
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN 345
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5305

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHAN COUP: SITREP 7 - 1700 HOURS, JULY 19

REF: A) KABUL 5282; B) KABUL 5258; C) KABUL 5269; D) KABUL 5276 (NOTAL)

1. SITUATION IN KABUL CONTINUES TO BE CALM. AFTERNOON DEPLOYMENTS MILITARY PERSONNEL APPEAR TO HAVE INCREASED, POSSIBLY IN REACTION TO RUMORS THAT KING MAY ATTEMPT TO RETURN (REFTEL A). SOME INDEFINABLE INCREASE IN TENSION IN POPULACE OBSERVABLE.
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2. ARMY TROOPS ARE POSTED AT ONLY US AND GERMAN EMBASSIES (FRENCH EMBASSY ALSO PROTECTED BY ROAD BLOCK SINCE EMBASSY ADJACENT TO DAUD'S RESIDENCE). NO TROOPS POSTED AT USSR EMBASSY.

3. SITUATION IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES IS NEARLY BUSINESS AS USUAL WITH DEPUTY MINISTERS FUNCTIONING IN ALMOST ALL MINISTRIES. USAID COUNTERPARTS OF MIDDLE AND UPPER LEVEL FUNCTIONARIES REPORT AFGHANS DESIROUS MAINTAINING CONTACTS. SOME ARE SPEAKING ENTHUSIASTICALLY ABOUT NEW REGIME. NUMBER OF MINISTERS FORMER GOVERNMENT RELIABLY REPORTED NOW AT HOME AND NOT UNDER GUARD. DEPFONMIN KHALIKYAR TOLD AID CONTRACT PAS ADVISOR THAT THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO PROBLEMS IN PROVINCES AND ASKED THAT TRAINING TEAMS PLAN CONTINUE VISITS PROVINCES THEY WORKING IN. ANOTHER USAID SOURCE REPORTS THAT MILITARY GOVERNORS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR ALL PROVINCES ARE ARE BEING HELICOPTERED TO PROVINCIAL CAPITALS. GERMAN PAKTIA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, IN RADIO CONTACT WITH FOUR STATIONS PAKTIA AND KANDAHAR, REPORT ALL QUIET IN TWO PROVINCES, THOUGH MILITARY CANTONMENTS PAKTIA REMAIN UNUSUALLY QUIET SUGGESTING TROOPS THERE MAY BE CONFINED TO QUARTERS.

4. RADIO AFGHANISTAN A.M. BROADCAST CONFIRMED USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEAN BLOC RECOGNITION OF NEW REGIME (REFTEL D). GOVERNMENT DAILY ISLA-ANIS REPEATED GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE BROADCAST EVENING JULY 18 (REFTEL B), DESIGNATING MOHAMMAD DAUD AS PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC, PRIME MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, DEFENSE MINISTER, AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. NO NEW RADIO OR PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS, OTHER THAN REITERATION OF SUPPORT PASHTUN TRIBES, KABUL UNIVERSITY AND AFGHANS LIVING ABROAD, HAVE BEEN MADE.

5. IN MEETING OF GERMAN CHARGE AND BRITISH DCM WITH EMBOFF, BRITISH DCM ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD NO CONFIRMATION BBC REPORT THAT ABDUL WALI WAS KILLED. (THIS REPORT CONTRADICTED BY SEVERAL OTHER GOOD SOURCES HERE. SEE REFTEL C.) HE ALSO REPEATED BBC REPORT (SO FAR UNCONFIRMED) THAT BHUTTO MET WITH KING ZAHIR IN ROME. BRITISH APPEAR CONVINCED (AGAIN WITHOUT CONFIRMATION) THAT SOVIETS MUST HAVE KNOWN ABOUT COUP IN ADVANCE, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS THEY UNAWARE OF SPECIFIC TIMING.

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6. MFA SOURCE IN VISA SECTION REPORTS THAT GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING NEW AFGHAN PASSPORTS AND THAT THEY WILL BE ISSUED SOON. HE ALSO SPECULATED THAT AIR SERVICE MAY BE RESUMED AS EARLY AS SATURDAY, JULY 21.

7. THERE IS REPORT THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO LEADERS ALL KABUL MOSQUES THAT FRIDAY MORNING PRAYERS MAY NOT RPT NOT INVOKE SUPPORT FOR DEPOSED KING, AND THAT NO

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MENTION BE MADE OF HIS NAME AS IS USUAL CUSTOM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, POLICE PROTECTION RIGHTS, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KABUL05305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS NEUMANN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730723/aaaaaraa.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 A) KABUL 5282; B) KABUL 5258; C), KABUL 5269; D) KABUL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <06-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFGHAN COUP: SITREP 7 - 1700 HOURS, JULY 19
TAGS: PINT, AF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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